

## Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 /097 W

----- 093561

R 131925Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7697

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0836

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SP SS AG MR PL

SUBJECT: POLAND CAUTIOUS ON SAHARA DISPUTE

1. DURING DISCUSSION FEB 13, POLISH AMB UNDERSCORED HIS COUNTRY'S  
NEUTRAL APPROACH TO SAHARA DISPUTE. HE SAID HE HAD JUST RETURNED  
FROM WARSAW CONSULTATIONS FOCUSING PRIMARILY ON ALGERIAN/MOROCCAN  
TENSIONS. ASKED WHAT POLAND'S CURRENT POLICY WAS, HE REPLIED,

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"TO DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING." HE STRESSED THAT THIS ONLY LOGICAL, AS

POLAND AND SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS IN BOTH ALGERIA AND MOROCCO. ALGERIANS, HE CONFIDED, WERE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH AND HAD TRIED TO EXERT HEAVY PRESSURE, WHICH POLAND HAD THUS FAR MANAGED SUCCESSFULLY TO PARRY.

2. POLISH AMB ASKED ABOUT US SAHARA POLICY AND REPORTS OF RECENT ARMS DELIVERIES. I SAID WE ALSO MAINTAINING NEUTRALITY ON SUBSTANCE OF SAHARA DISPUTE, RECOGNIZING THAT TO GET BETWEEN THE TWO ARAB STATES WAS AT SEVERE POTENTIAL PERIL. REPLYING TO FURTHER QUERIES, I NOTED THAT OUR MILITARY SUPPLY PROGRAM IN MOROCCO HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN 1973 AND WAS PROCEEDING BASICALLY AT THE PACE ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED; IF ANYTHING, LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES HAD SLOWED DELIVERIES. AS FOR PRESS ACCOUNTS OF "DOUBLING" OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE, I EXPLAINED THAT CREDITS HAD BEEN DOUBLED BUT THAT THIS ONLY A PORTION OF TOTAL SALES, WHICH UNALTERED.

3. POLISH AMB REMARKED HE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT U.S. MIGHT ESTABLISH NEW BASES IN MOROCCO; SOME MOROCCANS HAVING EVEN TALKED ABOUT "ATOMIC BASES." I POINTED OUT THAT US REDUCING BASES THROUGHOUT WORLD, NOT ESTABLISHING NEW ONES. AS FOR "ATOMICBASES," I TOLD HIM I COULD NOT IMAGINE WHAT THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO ENTAIL, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF MODERN MISSILE AND SUBMARINE TECHNOLOGY WHICH MADE ANY SUCH THING RATHER QUESTIONABLE. I NOTED THAT US NAVAL VESSELS WERE CONTINUING ROUTINE CALLS AT MOROCCAN PORTS, AS SOVIET AND OTHER VESSELS HAD DONE IN PAST. SUCH VISITS SHOWED FLAG AND GAVE CREWS NEEDED RECREATION, BUT HAD NO DIRECT MILITARY IMPACT, I NOTED.

4. REGARDING WIDESPREAD MOROCCAN CONCERN THAT SAHARA MIGHT DEVELOP INTO A NEW ANGOLA, POLISH AMB EXPRESSED VIEW THAT USSR HAD NO INTENTION OF INJECTING ITSELF INTO SAHARA DISPUTE OUT OF RECOGNITION OF PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY OF MEDITERRANEAN PERIPHERY. POLISH AMB ALSO ARGUED THAT CHINESE PRESENCE IN ANGOLA HAD BEEN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SOVIET DECISION TO INTERVENE THERE.

5. COMMENT: EASTERN EUROPEANS ON SOVIET COATTAILS HAVE BEEN SUFFERING FROM WORSENING PUBLIC RELATIONS HERE OVER IDENTIFICATION WITH ALGERIANS ON SAHARA ISSUE. POLES, LIKE SOVIETS, HAVE BEEN TRYING HARD TO COUNTERACT MOROCCAN PERCEPTIONS BY PLEADING CONFIDENTIAL

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INNOCENCE TO ANYONE WHO WILL LISTEN.  
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## Message Attributes

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